

31 January 1957

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR:

This memorandum recommends action in Paragraph 2:

1. Dick Barkness asks if you will appear before the Overseas Writers, preferably next week, but at any time of your convenience. You will recall we had this initial invitation last November. Dick said he talked to you personally, yesterday. I told him I thought it might be better to wait a while when some major matter comes up which might be worthy of your comment to the group. Dick thinks the current Middle East situation would be a worthwhile matter that would surely bring many questions. I agree with his viewpoint but I doubt the wisdom of your getting into the Middle East thing even without attribution, to such a large group when there are so many political implications involved: the Secretary of State and the Congress at the present time. It is my opinion that it would be more worthwhile for the Overseas writers and for CIA were you to make your annual talk at some date of your choice, late in February or early in March.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That you make your address to the Overseas writers no earlier than the week of February 17 - 23 and not later than the week of March 10 - 16..

STANLEY J. GREGAN
Assistant to the Director